

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 AID-05

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R 041330Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7980

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1525

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, YE

SUBJECT: FMS LOA'S FOR YAR

REF: STATE 11139

1. ON MAY 3 I NOTIFIED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YAHYA JEGHMAN THAT ADVANCED BRIEFINGS TO CONGRESS RE THE LOAS HAVE NOW BEEN COMPLETED. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT IT IS HOPED FORMAL CONGRESSIONAL CLEARANCE WILL OCCUR SOME TIME BY THE END OF THIS MONTH FOLLOWING THE MANDATORY 20-DAY PERIOD. FINALLY, I INFORMED HOM OF THE APRIL 28 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON YEMEN POGAM AND ASKED HIM TO BRIEF THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF BOTH OF WHOM HAD EARLIER ASKED ABOUT CURRENT STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON LOAS. TO MAKE SURE ASNAJ GOT THE WORD--HE WAS TIED UP WITH VISITING FRENCH FONMIN OFFICIAL--I ALSO SENT MESSAGE TO HIS HOME.

2. JEGHMAN'S REACTION TO ABOVE NEWS WAS POSITIVE WITH EXPRESSIONS OF PLEASURE THAT PROGRAM NOW SEEMS TO BE MOVING AHEAD. HE REQUESTED ME, HOWEVER, TO CONTINUE
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TO KEEP YARG INFORMED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF ANU

FUTURE BUREAUCRATIC STEPS WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED OR WHICH MAY HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN THE PUBLIC ARENA. IN THIS REGARD, HE ALSO HOPED THAT SPECIFIC DETAILS OF PROGRAM CAN BE KEPT CLASSIFIED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ALL NECESSARY STEPS ARE COMPLETED AND PARTICULARLY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SAUDIS AND YEMENIS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE FORMAL AGREEMENT ON FINAL PROGRAM.

3. COMXNT: ARMS PROGRAM IS VIEWED HERE AS VERY RPT VERY SENSITIVE ONE WHICH WILL HAVE BOTH IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM POLITICAL IMPACT OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO AL-HAMDI PERSONALLY AND TO OVER-ALL ORIENTATION OF YARG. THEY WILL REGARD DETAILS AS HIGHLY CLASSIFIED. EVEN THOUGH WE PROBABLY WANT SOME PUBLICITY FOR THIS PROGRAM.:/ WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ACCOMMODATE YEMENI CONCERNS, THIS MEANS, AT A MINIMUM, THAT WE MAKE SURE YEMENIS (AND SAUDIS) ARE BRIEFED IN ADVANCE OF STEPS WHICH WE MAY WANT TO OR HAVE TO TAKE IN PUBLIC ARENA. WE NEED TO INFORM THEM PROMPTLY RPT PROMPTLY OF PRESS STORIES. YEMENIS HAVE NO RPT NO EXPERIENCE WITH THE OPENNESS OFHUR SOCIETY OR REQUIREMENTS OF OUR FMS LEGISLATION AND
B
ENT LIKELY TO BE ENLIGHTENED BY LOCAL SAUDI MILITARY MISSION.

4. NEED FOR BOTH ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH YARG AND SECRECY OF DETAILS OF LOA'S IS HEIGHTENED BY FACT THAT RPT NO YEM
OFFICIAL HAS YET SEEN LOAJS. WE DON'T THINK ANYONE HERE HAS ANY CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT SAUDIS PROPOSE TO BUY. SAUDIS HAVE UP TO NOW KEPT DISCUSSIONS GENERAL, FOCUSED ON ORGANIZATION, TRAINING, ETC., YEMENIS KEEP SAYING WITH ELABORATE COURTESY THAT WHATEVER THEIR SAUDI BROTHERS DECIDE IS FINE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN GOVERNMENT IN SANA WANTS TO READ ABOUT IT FIRST IN WASHINGTON POST. ABOVE COMMENTS NOT RPT NOT INTENDED TO CREATE IMPEDIMENTS TO DEPARTMENT'S PLAN TO MOVE THE PROGRAM AHEAD. AND TO SUBMIT THE LETTERS TO CONGRESS ASAP. WE ARE GUESSING, BUT SAUDIS ARE APPARENTLY WAITING
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FOR THE END OF THE 20-DAY CONGRESSIONAL WAITING PERIOD IN ORDER TO INVITEABHASHMI TO RIYADH TO SIGN. SAUDIS HERE ARE SAYING, IN ANY CASE, THAT BALL IS IN OUR COURT, THAT FURTHER DELAYS IN SIGNING WILL BE OZUP TO US."
(HAVE SAUDIS GIVEN US SOME WORD, SINCE SUHZQQ VISIT TO SANA, THAT THEY IN FACT ARE WAITING FOR US TO GO THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL ROUTINE PROMPTLY AND THAT ALL LOA'S ARE ACCEPTABLE AS PRESENTLY WRITTEN?)

IN ANY CASE, WE THINK THE RIGHT THING TO DO IS PROCEED AS
PRESENTLY PLANNE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION YEMENI
DESIRE FOR ADVA-
NCE CONSULTATION AND SOME BBGRME OF
SECRECY RE DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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